

REMARKS

Claims 25-28 were rejected as anticipated by ZEKICH 4,586,441. The claims have been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

ZEKICH does not disclose plural cylindrical containers that each has an identification medium associated therewith, a delimited storage zone with plural locations that each stores a respective one of the cylindrical containers, and a reader for reading the identification medium on a respective one of the cylindrical containers as the respective container passes through the first access, and thus the amended claims avoid the rejection under §102.

ZEKICH is concerned with the identity and belongings of people passing through the security gate and does not make any provisions for storing items in a storage zone or for identifying the items as they pass through the gate leading to the storage zone. Indeed, ZEKICH would not work to control access to a storage zone in the manner claimed because ZEKICH has not provision for reading the identification medium on a respective one of the cylindrical containers as the respective container passes through the first access.

The dependent claims also avoid the rejection because ZEKICH does not disclose a first device for dispensing the identification medium that is associated with a respective one of the containers only when said first and second doors are closed

as in claim 26. The Official Action points to a first device 100, but this is a hand geometry reader. If the guard determines that the person seeking access is legitimate, then the guard issues a pass (column 7, lines 53-62). There is no suggestion to have a device issue an identification for a container as the container passes through the gate. With regard to claim 27, there is no suggestion in the reference to provide a terminal that determines a respective location in which a respective container is stored and of an identity of a user who moved the respective container to the respective location. Claim 28 avoids the rejection because there is nothing in the reference that discloses an installation-wide positioning system, where the terminal determines the respective location of the respective container based on the installation-wide positioning system and records movement of the container over time. The device in ZEKICH controls the flow of people through a gate, and does not keep track of the movement of a container over time.

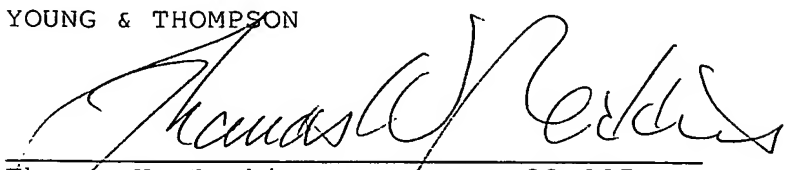
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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